

LEED COUNCIL FOCUSES ON A MEMBER: ANIXTER CENTER



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The mission of the Anixter Center is to enhance the ability of individuals living with or at risk of disabilities to live, learn, work, and play in the community. The agency was founded in 1919 as an orphanage for children who lost their parents to the major flu epidemic. Eighty-eight years later the agency still provides services and continues to have a major impact on the lives of more than 5,000 children and adults in the Chicago area. Some of the services the agency provides are:



- housing and residential care
- life skills and case management
- rehabilitation and recreation
- health care and prevention

The Anixter Center, located in a visible and convenient section of the Clybourn Corridor Planned Manufacturing District, gets so much attention at this location that people forget that there are other Anixter Center locations throughout the city. According to staff at the center, one thing that could be improved about the area for their business is the limited amount of parking.

The organization works hard for the community and has received many awards from Toys “R” US, the Illinois Department of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse and others for their best practices, exemplary programs and being a prominent leader in the community.

“Over the years the agency has experienced obstacles,” Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations Celeste Wroblewski said. “There are always more

people to serve then there are funds available and it is helpful to develop partnerships with other organizations in the local area such as LEED Council.”

When asked to recommend a good place to have lunch (which will be a stock feature of this section from now on), Celeste responded with Panera Bread, “because they have hired several individuals with a disability through our employment services programs.”

